MR. S. J. NAIR:

314. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,07,300 for the construction of a bridge at Neriamangalam across the Periyar by Rs. 3.

MR. S. J. NAIR:

315. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 34,54,850 under Demand X by Re. 1.

MR. K. M. KRISHNAN:

316. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 34,54,850 under Demand X by Re. 1.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE;

317. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 34,54,850 under Demand X by Rs. 10.

PRESIDENT: I put it that the Demand for Rs. 34,54,850 under Demand X—Public Works Department—be passed.

The grant was made.

PRESIDENT: The House will now adjourn till a quarter past two

The House adjourned at 1-35 P. M. and re-assembled at 2-17 P. M.

DEMAND XI—PUBLIC WORKS—ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT.

MR. L. H. JACOB (*Ag. Chief Engineer*): Sir, I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 14,82,717 for Public works—Electrical Department under Demand XI.

The following motions was not moved.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN:

318. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,28,595 for Trivandrum Electric Supply by Re. 1.

Motion No. 319.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Sir, I move that the allotment of Rs 1,28,595 for Trivandrum Electric Supply be reduced by Re. 1.

My object in making this motion is to bring to the notice of the House one specific direction in which the electric supply scheme can be made more useful. From the Report for 1107, which we were favoured with yesterday. I find, Sir, that Government are now making a profit of Rs. 53,725 on a total outlay of Rs. 6,36,000 which works out to about 8 1/3 per cent. I ask—have Government invested their money on any other concern at such a high rate of interest? Sir, to be brief, may I ask whether Government should not and would not be satisfied with a return of 5 per cent. on the outlay? The electric supply scheme was started, I believe, mainly with the object of lighting the streets of the city. We find many streets where posts are put up, and the wiring is done and electricity is supplied to private consumers but the streets are not lighted. It appears that the Government or the authorities concerned seem to take delight in allowing some parts of the town to be in darkness at night. My suggestion is this. It is a very workable and a reasonable suggestion Government may take about five per cent. on the outlay, that is after deducting all kinds of charges, working and depreciation charges. There will still be a surplus of over Rs. 20,000 per annum and this may be utilised for lighting

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[Mr. A. Thanu Pillai.]

more streets of the town. After all, this large profit is made out of money paid by the Trivandrum municipal rate-payers, and it is for their benefit that I ask for more lighting of the streets. I hope that Government will readily see their way to accept my suggestion. I know there is some difference of opinion on this question between the Municipality and the Government. The facts about it are not quite clear to outsiders like myself. Sir, the municipal rate-payer is not to suffer for this. Some understanding may very well be come to. After all, Government can divert at least Rs. 20,000 of the annual profit for the upkeep of more lights in the town. In many streets, as I have already stated, lamp posts are there, and other arrangements are also made. Only the authorities should think of lighting the streets and more streets may be given the benefit. With this suggestion, I beg to make the motion.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Urban*): I support the motion. 8·44 per cent. is certainly a high rate of interest. The Government may certainly be benefited by getting this money. As has been observed by Mr. Thanu Pillai, the ratepayers must also get the advantages of a good electric supply system. But I am consoled to find, Sir, lower down in the same paragraph referred to by my friend, this sentence—

> "A stage has now reached when further extensions both in generating plant and in the distribution system had to be taken up and these were engaging the attention of the department during the year under report."

When the supply is extended and more people are benefited, naturally electric power can be supplied at a cheaper rate. That I understand is the intention of Government and I presume it is so unless the official side takes objection to my view of the matter. Therefore, I associate myself with what Mr. Thanu Pillai has said on this motion.

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Member, Sri Chitra State Council, Electrical Engineer to Government*). Sir, with regard to electric lighting in the Trivandrum streets I may bring to the notice of the House that the ratepayer does not contribute anything towards its cost. As a matter of fact what is being done now is to divert the original expenditure under public works both by way of contribution to the Municipality and for the maintenance of the original gas lights which amounted to Rs. 26,000 odd, and towards the receipt head of electric supply Government found it necessary to increase this contribution by another Rs. 10,000.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): I wish to make a statement, Sir, in regard to that. I never meant to say that, specifically for this purpose, any rates are collected from the men in the town. That is not what I meant. Anyhow, the money of the municipality is the money of the rate-payer.

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MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*) : The municipality is not contributing anything. What used to be done before on the other hand was that Government was making a lighting contribution to the municipality. What is now done is to divert that money towards the receipt head under the electric supply account and provide lights for all the major streets in the town. Originally, Government used to spend Rs. 15,000 for the maintenance of gas lights. In addition to this, there was a contribution of Rs. 11,000 to the Municipality, thus making a total of Rs. 26,000. Since the introduction of electric lights, it was found necessary to extend the lighting to some more of the important streets the maintenance of which was not covered by Rs. 26,000 and the total expenditure has now come up to about Rs. 38,000, the whole amount being contributed by Government. A stage has therefore been reached when the further question of contribution either by Municipality or by Government has to be fully looked into. It is not correct that Government should spend a large amount of money on one town alone for lighting. So, the matter is now receiving the attention of the department and the Municipal President, Trivandrum, and it is hoped that an amicable settlement will be arrived at whereby what the Municipality is now spending for maintaining kerosene lights will be made available for the maintenance of additional electric lights for the streets. It will be possible at a future date, which I believe is not very distant, when the consumption of electricity increases in the town and when the rates for current could be reduced further because in electric supply undertakings the cost of a unit depends very largely on the total consumption. That is to say, the larger the consumption the lower the rates, as may be seen from the following figures. When the electric supply was first started, in 1105, the total generation was 3·76 lakhs of units and the cost of generation was 3·32 annas per unit. In the following year, *i. e.*, 1106, the generations went up to 4·83 lakhs, that is roughly 30 per cent. over the previous year, and the cost of generation went down to 3·06 annas. In 1107, the generation was 6·12 lakhs and the cost went down to 2·74 annas. During 1108, judging from the results of the last 11 months, it is expected that the generation will reach 7·2 lakhs and there is every reason to anticipate that the working results of 1109 will show that the total generation will reach at least 8 lakhs. It may be seen that there has been a corresponding decrease in the cost of generation; but at the same time the present decrease is not sufficient to justify an all-round reduction. Therefore it is not possible to reduce the rates next year but it may be possible to do so the year after next.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*) : Sir, my point was not about the reduction of rates but something different.

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*) : That is a very important aspect. Reducing the rates means that by the same grant we can increase the number of lights. Now we are maintaing 1,233 lights and for the same grant we can maintain 1,400 lights if the rates are reduced say by one anna. It is one of the attempts

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[Mr. K. P. Padmanabha Menon.]

which the department is making. The working expenses now have gone down considerably in proportion and it is hoped that it will be possible in a year or two to so reduce the rates that they may be comparable with the rates in other big towns.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): May I know from the member whether my figures regarding the profits made are correct and what he has to say in regard to that?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): The profits of Rs. 53,000 are correct. In regard to this electric supply scheme, although it has been financed from the surplus revenues of the State it has to be treated as a regular commercial business as if the capital spent on the scheme was raised as a loan from Government repayable to Government after a definite period of time. If that aspect is considered, it will be found that to arrive at a correct balance-sheet, provision for a sinking fund is necessary.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Who will be the proprietor of the works at the end of the term?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): Government will be the proprietor. Capital will be paid back with the result that only the working expenses will have to be met thereafter and no interest charges will be incurred.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Does it not mean that the present generation will have to pay much more than what the future generation will have to pay? Is it a right policy?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): It is not the present generation, it is only the consumer who pays.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Yes, the present generation of consumers and the future generation of consumers.

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): That is the case in all such undertakings. The future generations may not have to pay as much as the present generation. The man who purchased a motor car at the time when it was discovered had probably to pay more than a car owner of the next generation. That cannot be helped. Sir, I think I have answered all the questions.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Urban*): One question. The total net receipt is Rs. 1,51,000. The total working expenses under generation, distribution and administration were Rs. 57,000 leaving a net return of Rs. 93,725. Of this Rs. 40,000 was appropriated towards depreciation. When you provide a fund for depreciation, I ask whether 8·44 per cent. is not too high a profit for Government to take?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): Supposing the money was borrowed by raising it in the open market. Then the interest charges will come first and then the depreciation on

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the undertaking and then provision will have to be made to pay back the capital. A sinking fund is required for that purpose. This amount of Rs. 57,000 includes provision for that also.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Sir, I do not really see the point when the member says that provision should also be made to pay back fully the amount invested in the scheme. Why should it not continue to be a scheme owned by Government? As for depreciation charges, provision is made. Then where is the necessity for the capital being fully paid back?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Why should the general tax-payer pay for the scheme which benefits only the capital?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): I do not understand the Financial Secretary. My complaint is that the general tax-payer is getting a profit at the rate of 8 1/3 per cent. on the outlay. He should be satisfied with five per cent. The general tax-payer will not lose by that. I fail to understand how he loses. Why should not the concern be allowed to be a concern owned by Government for the benefit of the capital, in other words, for the benefit of the State?

MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR (*Kunnâtnâd II*): The term benefits of the capital does not mean the benefits of the State?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): That is a matter on which there is difference of opinion. I still maintain even though I now represent a constituency other than the capital town, that the benefit of the capital is the benefit of the State.

The official member said that a sum of Rs. 5,000 originally spent for maintaining gas lights has been diverted from the Municipality. This amount and another sum of Rs. 11,000 mentioned by him are included in the receipts of the electric supply scheme. That makes no difference as far as my present motion is concerned. The fact still remains that Government are making the profit. When I said that it is the Trivandrum ratepayer that pays this money, I did not mean that rates are specifically collected for this purpose. All I said was that the money comes from the ratepayer. After providing for reasonable profit the balance of the receipts may be utilised for extending street lighting. I cannot see eye to eye with the official member when he objects to it. I thought this would be readily agreed to. I also see that there is danger in pressing my motion to a division. Still I take the risk and I press it to a division.

The motion was then put and lost.

Motion 320.

The following motion was not moved.

MR. S. J. NAIR:

320. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,55,400 for Trivandrum Electric Supply and Telephone by Re. 1.

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Motion 321.

To omit the allotment of Rs. 150,000 for Electric Supply to the Quilon Town.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): കൊല്ലം പട്ടണത്തിലേയ്ക്കുള്ള ഇലക്ട്രിക് സപ്ലൈ ചെയ്യുന്നവകയ്ക്കായി ബഡ്ജറിൽ കൊള്ളിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ₹,൫ ൦,൦ ൦ ൦ രൂപാകുറക്കണമെന്നുള്ളതാണു എന്റെഉപക്ഷേപം.

സർ, ഞാൻ ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപം ഇവിടെ ഹാജരാക്കുന്നതു കൊല്ലം നഗരവാസികൾക്കു വൈദ്യുതദീപം കിട്ടുന്നതുകൊണ്ടുള്ള അസൂയകൊണ്ടല്ല. വലിയ സൂചസൌകര്യാദികളിൽ തല്പരരായിരിക്കുന്നവരുടെ കിടക്കമുറികളിലും സ്റ്റഡിമുറികളിലും ഏതൊന്നിൽ തൊട്ടാൽ ഉടനെ അവിടംമുഴുവനും വെളിച്ചംകൊണ്ടു നിറയുന്നതിനു ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നതു തെറ്റാണെന്നും ഞാൻ പറയുന്നില്ല. എന്നാൽ അരച്ചക്രത്തിന്റെ തകരവിളക്കും നാലുകാശിന്റെ മണ്ണെണ്ണയുമായി കഴിച്ചുകൂട്ടുന്നവർ ഈ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ധാരാളമുണ്ട്. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ളവർ ജനസംഖ്യകൊണ്ടു വളരെ അധികമായിത്തന്നെ കാണും. ഈ ജനങ്ങൾ ഇപ്രകാരം കഷ്ടപ്പെടുമ്പോൾ ബഡ്ജറിൽ കൊല്ലം പട്ടണവാസികളുടെ സുഖസൌകര്യാദികൾക്കായി ₹,൫ ൦,൦ ൦ ൦ രൂപാ ചേർത്തിരിക്കുന്നതു കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നു പറയുന്നതു ഈ സഭയെ ബോധ്യപ്പെടുത്തുന്ന സംഗതി ഒരു വലിയ പ്രയാസമുള്ള കാര്യമല്ല. ഉൾനാടുകളിലുള്ള സാധുക്കളുടെയും കർഷകന്മാരുടെയും ആവശ്യത്തിനായി കല്വകളോ ചെറിയ പാലങ്ങളോകെട്ടണമെന്നാവശ്യപ്പെടുമ്പോൾ "അധഃപതനം, അധഃപതനം, പണമില്ല, പണമില്ല" എന്നു ഗവണ്മെൻറു പലപ്പോഴും പറയാറുണ്ട്. ഈ പറച്ചിൽ വാസ്തവമാണെങ്കിൽ ലക്സറി എന്നു പറയുന്ന സുഖാനുഭവത്തിനായി അനവധി സാധുക്കളുടേയും കൃഷിക്കാരുടെയും നിലയെ അവഗണിച്ചു ₹,൫ ൦,൦ ൦ ൦ രൂപാ ചിലവാക്കുന്നതു നീതികരിക്കാവുന്നതാണോ എന്നുള്ള സംഗതിയാണു ഞാൻ ഈ സഭയുടെമുമ്പാകെ കൊണ്ടുവരാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നതു്.

MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR (*Kunnatnad II*): ഈതുക കടമായിട്ടു കൊടുക്കയാണെന്നുള്ള സംഗതി മെമ്പർക്കറിയാമൊ?

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): അവരവരുടെ ആവശ്യം കഴിഞ്ഞു മിച്ചമുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ വേണമെല്ലൊ കടം കൊടുക്കാൻ. പൊതുജനങ്ങൾക്കാവശ്യമുള്ള നിസ്സാരമായ സംഗതികൾ നിർവഹിച്ചുകൊടുക്കാതെ ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള കാര്യങ്ങൾക്കു കടംകൊടുക്കുന്ന നയം ശരിയാണോ?

MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR (*Kunnatnad II*): ₹,൫൦,൦൦൦ രൂപാമിച്ചമായിട്ടിരിപ്പുണ്ടെന്നു മെമ്പർക്കറിയാമൊ?

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MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): അങ്ങിനെയാണെങ്കിൽ പത്തും ഇരുന്നൂറും രൂപാക്കാവശ്യമുള്ള വേലകാം നടത്തി തരണമെന്നു പറയുമ്പോൾ പണമില്ലെന്നു പലഅവസരങ്ങളിലും വിളിച്ചുപറയേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ലല്ലൊ?

MR. R.SAMBASIVA AIYAR (*Kunnatnad II*): അതു റവന്യൂവിൽ നിന്നുമുള്ള ചിലവാണ്.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): അതു റവന്യൂവിൽനിന്നുമുണ്ടാകുന്ന മിച്ചമല്ലേ?

MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR (*Kunnatnad II*): അതെ.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): അതു എല്ലാവരുടേയും ആവശ്യങ്ങൾ നടത്താനല്ലേ?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Sir, I rise to a point of order, The mover is asking questions to the other member who puts questions to him (*Laughter*)

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*) അതിനാൽ പൊതുമുതലിൽ നിന്നു ഈ ഇനത്തിലേക്കായി ഇതുയും തുക മാററിവയ്ക്കുന്ന നയം ഒട്ടുംതന്നെ ശരിയായിട്ടുള്ളതല്ല. കൊല്ലം പട്ടണവാസികൾക്കു വിദ്യുച്ഛക്തി കൊണ്ടുള്ള സുഖാനുഭവം അത്യാവശ്യമാണെന്നു തോന്നിയിരുന്നാൽ അവക്കുതന്നെ പണമുണ്ടാക്കി വേലനടത്താമായിരുന്നു.

MR. E. V KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): കൊല്ലം മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റി ഈ വേല തുടങ്ങുന്നതിനു അവരെ അനുവദിക്കണമെന്ന് ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടപ്പോൾ അതു സമ്മതിക്കാതെ ഗവണ്മെൻറുതന്നെ ഇതു തുടങ്ങിയതാണെന്നു മെമ്പർക്കറിയാമൊ?

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): ഈ സഭയിൽ അങ്ങനെ പറയുന്നതു കേട്ടു. അങ്ങിനെ തങ്ങൾതന്നെ ഏറ്റുനടത്താമെന്നു പറയുന്നവർക്കു ഇതു വിട്ടുകൊടുക്കേണ്ടതായിരുന്നു.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : അങ്ങിനെ വിട്ടുകൊടുക്കാതിരുന്നതിൻെറ ഉദ്ദേശമെന്താണു്?

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): അതു വിട്ടുകൊടുക്കാത്ത ആളിനോടു ചോദിച്ചാൽ അറിയാം. (*Laughter*).

കൊല്ലം പട്ടണത്തിൽ വിദ്യുച്ഛക്തിയുടെ സ്ഥാപനംകൊണ്ടു ഒരു നഷ്ടംവരാൻ പോകുന്നു എന്നുള്ള സംഗതിക്കുടി സഭയുടെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവന്നുകൊള്ളട്ടെ. പള്ളിവാസൽ ഹൈഡ്രോ ഇലക്ട്രിക് സ്കീമിനെപ്പററി കഴിഞ്ഞയാണ്ടിൽ വാദപ്രതിവാദം നടന്നപ്പോൾ അതു ദേ

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[Mr. N. E. Varughese.]

വികളത്തു താമസിക്കുന്ന ചില തോട്ടക്കാരെ ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചു ചെയ്യുന്നതാണെന്നും അതു തെക്കോട്ടുവരുമോ എന്ന സംശയമാണെന്നും അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടു. കൊല്ലംപട്ടണംവരെ അതു നീട്ടിക്കൊണ്ടുവരാൻ സാധിക്കുകയില്ലെന്നുള്ളതുകൊണ്ടാണു ഇപ്പോൾ കൊല്ലത്തു ഇതാരംഭിക്കുന്നതെന്നാണു ഞാൻവീക്ഷിക്കുന്നതു്. പള്ളിവാശലിൽ വിദ്യുച്ഛക്തി ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനു ഒരു വമ്പിച്ച ചിലവുണ്ടാകും. എന്നാൽ പള്ളിവാശലിൽനിന്നും ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന ശക്തി കൊല്ലംവരെ നീട്ടിക്കൊണ്ടുവരികയാണെങ്കിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ എലക്ട്രിസിറ്റി ജനറേറ്റ് ചെയ്യുന്നതിനായി കൊല്ലത്തു ചിലവാക്കുന്ന തുക ഒരു ദ്രവ്യമായി തീരും. അതുകൊണ്ടു തൽക്കാലം ഈ ജോലി നിറുത്തിവയ്ക്കണമെന്നുള്ളതു ഈ സഭയുടെ പര്യാലോചനയ്ക്കുവിധേയീഭവിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. ഈ സംഗതിയിൽ എല്ലാ മെംബറന്മാരും എന്നോടു യോജിച്ചു വോട്ടുചെയ്യുമെന്നു ഞാൻ പൂർണ്ണമായി വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : Evidently my friend Mr. Varughese has totally misunderstood the object and the purpose of the Government activity in the matter of supply of electricity. In fact it is not an undue preference or any sort of preference shown to Quilon. On the other hand, the Government and the whole State, I think, are to be grateful to Quilon for having readily consented to be the medium of an investment by which Government can make very decent profit. If this concern is merely a luxury, then Quilon people, a majority of them, may be even willing to forego this. But the Government do want some such sort of profitable investment which at the same time will be useful to the public. They want to develop industries and commerce in important centres in the State. We all know that Quilon is one of the most important centres of commerce and industry in Travancore. More than the capital and more than all other towns excepting perhaps Alleppey, Quilon has many items of industry such as coir, cashewnut, tile, cotton, spinning, weaving, etc. If the Government will be in a position to supply power to these industrial concerns, certainly they will be helping themselves and also helping the development of certain very important industries.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*) : May I know whether the member is having his permanent residence in Quilon ?

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : So, Sir, about the Pallivasal Hydro-Electric Scheme referred to by Mr. Varughese, we are not in a position to know exactly whether that will reach Quilon now. If it reaches, it is all right. But my information is that according to the present calculation it may not reach Quilon. Not as one

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who has any interest in Quilon but as one who wants to see Government making substantial profits out of investments of public utility, I request the mover and other members of his way of thinking to understand that it is not a preference shown to Quilon. But it is a wise step taken by the Government in making substantial profits out of comparatively small investments.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : I must confess, Sir, that I am unable to understand the policy behind the Government in launching an electric scheme in Quilon. I noted in the Financial Secretary's speech the other day, when the budget was presented, the relationship of this Quilon Electric Supply with the Hydro-Electric Scheme at Pallivasal. It is not at all, as has been said, a part of the scheme at Pallivasal and I have listened to some of the members here not being able to understand the relationship between Pallivasal and Quilon. I expect, Sir, an explanation from the Government benches how it is a part of the scheme at Pallivasal. With regard to the principle underlying Government taking up this commercial enterprise, *viz.*, the supply of electricity, I would even call it a deliberate commercial enterprise, because I read in the Administration Report of the Trivandrum Electric Supply that Government are making a very good profit of about 8·44 per cent. and my friend Mr. Thanu Pillai also was feeling jealous of the Government taking so much gain on the investment; perhaps it may be in consonance with the theory that in a radical world when a commercial enterprise is found to work in profit, it is up to the Government to step in and nationalise that enterprise. In that way the gain on that account could be applied to the public good at large. If such a thing is done by Government, I could appreciate it. Far from that; the gain derived in the Trivandrum electric supply, Government officers alone are enjoying by way of fat salaries. Not even a single pie is given to the public good. I cannot understand the reason why Government of their own accord should launch an electric supply scheme at Quilon. That Municipality could very well tackle that question. As a matter of fact, not only the Quilon Municipality but also the Nagercoil Municipality in season and out of season implored Government to wash their hands off with regard to the electric supply scheme.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : Was it with a loan or without a loan from Government?

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Both. The Municipality is also a public body. It is in a way Government on a miniature scale. I fail to see why the Travancore Government should undertake the supply of electricity on a commercial scale to Quilon alone. Why not Nagercoil as well? That means Government are giving different sorts of treatment to different Municipalities. In one case, Government spend money to start a scheme and execute it; in another case, even when the Municipality was ready to undertake the scheme, Government not only refused permission but gave the contract to a private individual. In spite of the fact that the applicant or the licensee concerned failed to

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instal before a particular date stipulated the necessary machine and all that apparatus, still Government seem to encourage that private concern. After all, it is to be run only by a private concern. In respect of Nagercoil, why should the private concern be preferred to the Municipality? Further it is a good scheme which will fetch a good rate of interest by way of return. Under these circumstances, I do not understand the principle underlying Government taking up this commercial enterprise at Quilon alone. If it is nationalisation of the scheme and if the gain obtained by Government is to be applied to the good of the general public at large, I can understand that. I do not grudge such schemes being undertaken by Government. Apart from the argument raised by Mr. Varughese——

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Will the Municipality be able to raise a loan?

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): If they are permitted, they could also raise loans.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): If they fail to pay, who will pay?

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): There are ratepayers to pay. For that matter there are funds known as sinking fund, depreciation fund, etc. Why should Government alone take the proud privilege of launching an electric scheme as is done in Quilon. I believe Government is composed of the general public.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): In case the Municipality is unable to pay, then who will pay?

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): The municipal ratepayers will be called upon to pay. Probably it may extend to longer periods. In half a dozen years, the amount could be cleared.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Will the rate payers agree to that?

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): It is all for the common good.

MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYER (*Kunnatnad II*): Does the member object to the Government taking up the Quilon scheme because necessary permission was not granted to the Nagercoil Municipality, but to a private person?

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): I only want the Government member to enlighten the House on the principle on which differential treatment is accorded to various municipalities in the State. Why should a private concern be encouraged when the Municipality is prepared to have its own scheme?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Could the Municipality raise a loan on their own responsibility?

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): A modest estimate for the supply of electricity will come to about 3 to 4 lakhs of rupees. Any major Municipality like the Nagercoil Municipality which has good

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resources at hand can undertake to run such a scheme. If the Government despair about the capacity of any major Municipality or about its ability to pay back the loan, I can appreciate that.

The point I want to know is why different treatment should be meted out to different Municipalities. In the one case there is a private concern preferred to a Municipality and in the other Government running the scheme unmindful of the Municipality. Still more wonderful, the private concern has not installed the necessary machines under the agreement before a particular date. Still such a concern is encouraged by Government. I am unable to reconcile the lenient attitude shown by Government after all to a private concern. This is the point I want to get cleared from the Government bench.

Mr. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : I oppose the motion. The other day the Electrical Engineer made us understand that the scheme of electric supply in Travancore, not to speak of Quilon alone, is one that has a great future before it and that it ought to be in the hands of Government. Under the circumstances private agencies should not be permitted to exploit the people by rendering them any help by way of loans. The Quilon Municipality in this particular instance seems to have applied for a loan to the Government to work up the concern. But Government refused that offer, because the whole Electric Scheme is to be in the hands of the Government, for the reason that the electric scheme, if completed, will solve various industrial and commercial problems that confront the State. The present day economic and unemployment problems could be relieved to a great extent when the Electric Scheme in Travancore is carried out and for that it is essential that the scheme of Electric Supply in Quilon Municipality also should be done by Government instead of leaving it to the control of private agencies and municipalties.

Mr. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*) : In opposing the motion, I have a few observations to make. It would appear that the mover of the proposition is under a grave misapprehension. Personally as a representative of the constituency comprising the Quilon Municipality, I would have protested against the action of Government in appropriating to themselves the privilege of starting an electricity scheme in the Quilon Municipality. The Quilon Municipality never wanted Government to undertake this work. They requested Government to grant them permission to start the work. Difficulty came in with regard to funds. When they applied for funds, Government were not prepared to grant any further loans in regard to this matter. Probably it may be the happenings in the Kottayam Municipality that might have prompted them to adopt such a course. In regard to the starting of such schemes primarily, permission of the Government has to be obtained first. Government stuck on to that principle, and, in doing so, they promised that, when the time comes for the development of the hydro-electric scheme at Pallivasal, there was the prospect of co-ordinating the Quilon scheme with that bigger scheme. In the light of that, it was considered that it would not be proper if the Quilon Municipality were given the privilege or the right

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to supply electricity to the Quilon town. If the Government grant the right to the Quilon Muncipality now, Government would surely stand to lose heavily if, later on, after the development of the Pallivasal scheme, they seek to link Quilon town supply with it. The Municipality will certainly dictate their own terms, and Government will surely stand to lose if they want to get back the right from the Municipality. And then, if, on account of this difficulty, Government are not able to extend the Pallivasal scheme to Quilon, people will raise an outcry that it was a short-sighted policy on the part of Government to have allowed the Quilon Municipality to start a local electric supply scheme when the Government had actually begun work in the Pallivasal Scheme. Personally, I know that the Quilon Municipality will certainly be glad to start their own scheme.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*) : Even without a loan from Government?

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): That is not a difficult matter at all. Even if the Government are not prepared to give us a loan, we can easily raise money. Several people are prepared to advance money to the Quilon Municipality. The Quilon Municipality is not a pauper Municipality. They have their own assets, their own reserves and resources.

I was submitting, Sir, that it would be considered to be short-sighted policy on the part of Government if they now grant the right to the Quilon Municipality and later on find themselves at the mercy of the Quilon Municipality for extending the Pallivasal Scheme to Quilon.

Further, it would apppear that there are two out-of-use dynamos or engines in the Trivandrum Power House, which Government are anxious to dispose of now. The Electrical Engineer, of course, calls them *small* plants. But, even to the biggest factory owner in Travancore, I am sure, these engines will be big plants. Therefore, there may not be any in Travancore who could afford to purchase these plants for their real worth. Naturally, therefor, Government cannot hope to get anything like an adequate or fair price for these plants by sale, in auction or by private negotiation. On the other hand, by sending them on to Quilon for the new scheme to be started there, the Electrical Engineer can fix his own price and charge the Quilon scheme for that. That is a bargain not to be lost sight of.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether the member is aware that the Nagercoil Municipality offered a better price for these plants?

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*) : I do not know that. I do not know, for that matter, what the Quilon Municipality would do if the plants are offered to them for sale. Personally, if I am asked, I would reject them. Anyhow, Sir, in a business proposition like this, this is a very important matter that has to be taken into account.

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With these words, I oppose the motion.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): I rise to oppose the motion. There are two aspects of this question, which have been raised. One is that the mover of the motion seems to have, at the back of his mind, that Government are doing something very favourable to the Quilon Municipality, and giving them something in the nature of a luxury ; and he asks the representatives of the people here to protest against that. I shall deal with that first.

With regard to a town like Quilon, or for that matter, Trivandrum or Nagercoil, or any other town, it must be conceded that, what may appear to a resident of a local area, a man in a village, as a luxury may not at all be a luxury but a vital necessity to a citizen of a town. Sir, these towns, Quilon for instance, are not merely for the permanent residents there alone. They are made use of—all the comforts and conveniences provided there are made use of—by all sorts of people often coming there from all parts of the country. And, for the proper maintenance of these towns with all its so-called luxuries, the attractions, it is the permanent residents alone that are directly taxed. If, therefore, objection is taken on the ground that the proposed scheme is intended for the benefit of the people actually residing there, I want to raise my emphatic protest against that. I am familiar, Sir, with such objections raised with regard to the huge sums of money spent on electric supply and water supply for the town of Trivandrum. Sir, as I have already pointed out, towns should not be viewed as being intended for the actual residents alone. Towns are places where a cosmopolitan population is always to be found ; and it is, therefore, absolutely fair that towns are maintained out of the general revenues of the State as well. Everyone in the State, who, for some thing or other, comes to the town and enjoys the amenities there, ought to contribute to the upkeep of the so-called luxuries in towns. Every responsible citizen of the State must realise that responsibility of his. It is up to him to see that, in his own interest, towns are maintained properly and improved. That aspect of the question has to be borne in mind when this question is tackled.

Then, Sir, in regard to the question as to whether the Government are embarking upon the scheme as a business proposition, I submit that, so far as I have been able to see, Government have fully considered it in all its aspects and satisfied themselves that it will be a paying concern because, unlike Nagercoil, in Quilon, there is the possibility of greater consumption of power. Quilon is a fairly big industrial centre. There are huge factories there.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I ask whether the member has any idea of the number of looms working in Nagercoil ?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): Yes ; and I also know there is not a single power loom in Nagercoil ; and I cannot easily envisage the possibility of power looms springing up in the twinkling of an eye. On the other hand, Sir, in Quilon, there is the singular experiment of a big cotton mill ; there are the factories of Harrisons and Crosfield, Ltd., saw mills, coir factories and about a dozen tile factories

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These are huge permanent consumers of electric power. Sir, where is the comparison between Quilon and Nagercoil with regard to industrial development, and the possibility of consumption of electric energy? I do not think anybody will try to controvert that point.

Sir, Government seems to have considered the question as a business proposition; and, judging from the figures furnished by the Electrical Engineer, it seems to be a profitable venture. And, if it is going to be a profitable concern, why not the Government undertake it? That aspect of the matter has also to be taken into account. Further, now that the Pallivasal Scheme is to be developed, why should the Government leave a particular centre in the hands of a corporation and lose all chances of getting some big permanent consumers at this end? Sir, the success of the Pallivasal Scheme depends on the quantity of energy consumed. Is it wise on the part of the representatives of the people to advise Government to lose a consumer who is ready, right now, to consume a considerable portion of the energy produced? These aspects of the question ought to engage the attention of the House more than the question of one Municipal town getting some advantage or convenience. It is not wise or right to argue that point on that narrow line. I hope and trust that all my friends here will reject the motion now before the House.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Urban*) : I was very happy to listen to the speeches of some of my friends when they advocated an electric supply scheme for Quilon. They have put forth some reasons in support of their position. I would also try to put it on a different reason.

Sir, Government exist for the protection of the permanent interests of the people. A Municipal Council, allured by the chances of profit, may embark on certain schemes which at last *may* prove disastrous. I remember, there is a Section in the Municipal Regulation which says that, when a Municipal Council is going to deprive itself of its permanent interests for some of its ephemeral needs, Government has a duty to interfere. I do not distinctly remember the Section exactly, but I was present in the Legislative Council when that was passed. Sir, here is an instance of the Government discharging its duties under that Section. The electric supply scheme for Quilon will certainly cost some money. The Municipality may float a loan and start the work and have the scheme working. But, in a few years, the Pallivasal Scheme will begin to work and there will be material change in the circumstances. There is vast difference, Sir, between large scale production and small scale production, so that, it will be possible to sell energy from the Pallivasal Scheme much cheaper than the energy from any local scheme. Therefore, when the bigger scheme comes into force, the people of Quilon will naturally grumble that they have to pay more than their neighbours. There is that danger ahead which has to be borne in mind by the persons who attack the venture now.

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Sir, I was very glad to hear Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai when he made out the case that there is no divergence between the interests of the towns and the interests of the country. They are one entity. The country cannot get on without towns. It is the towns which provide markets for the country. There is also the spiritual aspect. It is the towns which enable people to nurse their minds and help to lead a decent life. I fail therefore to see why the town should be tabooed. Towns and the country are the same in a State like Travancore.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): May I know whether the Government recognise the requirements of the Quilon town and are going to spend this particular amount without any idea of repayment?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Urban*) If the Government do that I would not congratulate Government. That question has been answered in a prophetic manner by some of my friends. Government has no business to waste their money. There are two engines in Trivandrum without any work. Should they be sold at this time of economic depression? To sell them would not be profitable. When the Pallivasal scheme comes into operation they will give electricity cheaper rather than encourage the Municipal Council to lose the money. By selling Pallivasal electricity at a cheaper rate, Government will be making huge profits.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): Does not the member know that at the time when the Pallivasal Scheme is developed all that the Government will have to do is to remove these two engines and that no further initial outlay would be necessary for bringing the current to Quilon from any other place?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Urban*): Yes, certainly.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): Is the member supporting or opposing the motion?

MR. T. K VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Urban*) I am sorry, Sir, that even at 3 o' clock there should be such a difficulty. I have been making clear my points and I thought my friend understood it that I am supporting him.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): What is the significance of the 3 o' clock?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Urban*): It is at 3 o' clock that people fall asleep.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): പകൽ സമയത്താണോ ഉറങ്ങുന്നു?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Urban*): Sir, I am not going to answer that question.

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): Sir, the first point that has to be answered with regard to the cut motion relates to the objection raised with regard to Government financing such so-called luxury prospects when Government have to find fund

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for other public works. The answer to that is that Government are investing this surplus money on such enterprises so that they may get a remunerative return. Government now ordinarily get about 3½ to 4% as interest on their investments. If the same amount could be spent in the country and if an adequate return could be obtained for that investment, it will provide employment to the people and the benefit would go to the general tax-payer.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivadrum—Rural*) : What will be the adequate return according to the member ?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*) : Anything above 5 %.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): According to the present calculations, will the residents of the Quilon Municipality have to pay above 5 % ?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): The residents in the Quilon Municipality will have to pay only at the rates that are prevailing at Trivandrum.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): May I know whether according to the present calculation it will be 5 % or 8 % ?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): According to the forecast of the revenue, it will be 5 %.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*) : Will it be cheaper than the current supplied to Kottayam Municipality ?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): It will be much cheaper. I understand that a consumer at Kottayam has to pay 8 annas per unit.

Sir, the next question is with regard to the Government taking up the work instead of leaving them to the Municipality. All electric supply undertakings are nowadays taken up by Government. Even if the money required for the initial expenditure could be found by the Municipality by raising a loan, it has to be borne in mind that every year as the supply becomes popular the lines will have to be extended throughout the town and more capital has to be spent, which means that if the Municipality has not sufficient reserve behind it, it will have to raise loans year after year. It has to be expected that when the Municipality raises a loan the rate of interest will be higher than when the Government raise a loan. Apart from that question, there is also this aspect to be considered. Government are starting electric supply at Quilon only because there is a definite demand for it. The ultimate object of Government is to link up this supply with the major scheme at Pallivasal. The Pallivasal scheme will take at least 3 years to mature. It is necessary to create a demand in the meantime and make the supply popular. Judging by the experience at Trivandrum, it is to be expected that when the Pallivasal scheme comes into operation, the load at Quilon would be sufficiently large to justify the

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extension of the net work. If on the other hand the Quilon supply is not taken up now and if the energy has to be brought straightaway from Kottayam, the additional expenditure will work out to about Rs. 6 lakhs and an adequate return of this extension will be problematical. But on the other hand, if a small scheme is worked up it is expected that in four or five years' time the consumption would so develop that the return from it will be sufficient to meet interest and overhead charges. Although only Rs. 1·5 lakhs is provided, in the budget for 1109, the actual estimate is Rs. 2·1 lakhs. Even if this expenditure is increased when the Pallivasal scheme is to be linked, the only superfluous expenditure will be the cost of the two engines. It is not that these engines are superfluous or are not in satisfactory working condition as mentioned by one of the members. The Quilon scheme will have the engines at the depreciated value for the last four years' running so that although the book value of the engines is Rs. 34,000 the actual value when transferred to Quilon will be about 25 per cent. less.

Then another reason why Government are initiating the supply at Quilon is with a view to effect uniformity of rates. It may sometimes happen that one particular locality may not be so prosperous as another. In one locality the electric-supply may be profitable. But in another it may not be so. If it is in the hands of a private agency, it will not be possible to make the rates uniform in all places. Electricity can very rightly be regarded as a national industry and in view of the fact that Pallivasal scheme aims at the distribution over a very large area it is only right that Government should consider this scheme of supply and distribution as a nationalised undertaking. These are all the points that I have to bring to the notice of the House.

Mr. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Urban*) : Sir, on a point of personal explanation. All that I meant when I said 3'o clock is that we sit by day while the House of Commons sits by night.

Mr. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*) : സർ, സംഗതികൾ ശരിയായി ഞാൻ ധരിക്കാത്തതുകൊണ്ടാണ് കൊല്ലം പട്ടണത്തിൽ വിളുപ്പുകതിക്കായിട്ടുള്ള ധനാഭ്യർത്ഥനയെ ഞാൻ എതിർത്തത് എന്നു ചിലമെമ്പർമാർ ഇവിടെ പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. എന്റെ ആശയങ്ങളെ ശരിയായി ധരിക്കാത്തതുകൊണ്ടാണ് അങ്ങിനെ പറഞ്ഞത് എന്നുഞാനും പറഞ്ഞുകൊള്ളുന്നു. ഉൾനാട്ടിലെ കൃഷീവലന്മാരുടെ പ്രതിനിധി എന്ന നിലയിലാണ്ഞാൻ ഈ സഭാമുമ്പാകെ ഈ സംഗതികൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുള്ളതും. അല്ലാതെ കൊല്ലത്തു വിളുപ്പുകതിപ്രകാശം കൊടുക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടുള്ള അസൂയനിമിത്തമല്ലാ എന്ന് ഞാൻ ആദ്യമേപറഞ്ഞു കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. ഉൾനാടുകളിൽ കൃഷിവലന്മാർ അത്യാവശ്യമായ ജോലികൾ ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കണമെന്നു പറയുമ്പോൾ അധഃപതനം, അധഃപതനം, മുഴുവനും അ

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[Mr. N. E. Varughese.]

ധഃപതനം എന്നുപറഞ്ഞു സാധുക്കളായകൃഷിക്കാരെ മടക്കി അയക്കുന്നു. എന്നാൽ കൊല്ലം മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റിയുടെ ആവശ്യം ഗവണ്മെൻറു തന്നെ ഏറ്റു നടത്തുന്നു. കൊല്ലംപട്ടണത്തിൽ ഇപ്പോഴും ദൂരെനിൽക്കുന്നവരെ കാണാൻ തക്കവണ്ണമുള്ളവെളിച്ചം മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റിവകയായി ഉണ്ട്. ഉൾനാടുകളിലെസ്ഥിതി അങ്ങിനെയല്ല. ഇങ്ങിനെ ഇപ്പോഴും തന്നെ സുഖമായി കഴിക്കാവുന്ന കൊല്ലം പട്ടണവാസികളുടെമേൽ വിളുമ്പുകൂടി പ്രകാശംകൂടി കൂത്തിച്ചെലുത്തുന്ന നയം നല്ലതല്ല എന്ന ഒരുനിലയിലാണ് ഞാൻ ഇതു ഈ സഭാമുമ്പാകെ കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നത്. അധഃപതനം കഴിഞ്ഞാൽശേഷം ധാരാളം വരുവുണ്ടാകുമെങ്കിൽ കൊടുക്കുന്നതിൽ യാതൊരുവിരോധവുമില്ല.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : ഈ ലൈസൻസു കടംവാങ്ങിച്ചു ചിലവാക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു മെംബർക്കു വിരോധമുണ്ടോ?

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*) : കടം വാങ്ങിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ലല്ലോ?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : കടം വാങ്ങിച്ചുകൊടുക്കരുതോ?

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*) : നീക്കിയിരിപ്പുണ്ടല്ലോ അതുകൊണ്ടു കടം വാങ്ങിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ല. കടംവാങ്ങിച്ചു അതു കൊടുക്കാതിരുന്നാൽ ഞാനും ഉത്തരവാദിയാണല്ലോ. സാധുക്കളായകൃഷിക്കാക്കുകൊടുത്തശേഷം മിച്ചമുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ തലസ്ഥാനത്തോ മറ്റു നഗരങ്ങളിലോ ഉള്ളവരുടെ സുഖസൌകര്യാദികൾക്കായി ചിലവാക്കുന്നതിൽ യാതൊരു വിരോധവുമില്ല.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : നാട്ടിൻപുറങ്ങളിലെ ആവശ്യങ്ങളെന്നു മെമ്പർ പറഞ്ഞ ആവശ്യങ്ങൾക്ക് ക്യാപ്പിറ്റലിൽ നിന്നും പണം എടുത്തു ചിലവാക്കുന്നതു ശരിയാണെന്നാണോ മെമ്പറുടെ വിചാരം?

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): വരവിൽ നിന്നും എടുക്കാം അതു ഞങ്ങളാണല്ലോ കൊടുക്കുന്നതു അതായതു കർഷകരാണല്ലൊരാജ്യത്തെ ഭണ്ഡാഗാരം നിറച്ചു കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതു. അതു കൊണ്ടു ഞങ്ങളുടെ ആവശ്യത്തിനുകൂടി പണംതരണം. കർഷകന്മാരുടെ ആവശ്യം നടത്താൻപണമില്ലെന്നുപറഞ്ഞിട്ടുനഗരവാസികളുടെസുഖസൌകര്യാദികൾക്കു പണം വിനിയോഗിക്കുന്നനയം ശരിയല്ലെന്ന ഈ സഭയുടെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരാനാണു ഞാൻ ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപം കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഗവണ്മെൻറുമുടക്കുന്ന പണത്തിനു 8 ശതമാനം പലിശയും മറ്റും കിട്ടു

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ന്നതു നല്ലതുതന്നെ. പണമുള്ളവർക്കു പെട്ടിശകിട്ടുകയും ചെയ്യും. എന്നാൽ നാട്ടിൻപുറങ്ങളിൽ പട്ടിണികിടക്കുന്നവരുടെ ആവശ്യങ്ങളെക്കൂടി ഗവണ്മെൻറു ഓർക്കണം.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തുള്ള വൈദ്യുത ദീപങ്ങളെ നശിപ്പിക്കണമെന്നു മെമ്പർക്കഭിപ്രായമുണ്ടോ?

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): ചിലവുചെയ്തു പോയതിനെ നശിപ്പിക്കണമെന്നു പറയുന്ന ഒരുവനാണു ഞാൻ എന്നു എൻെറ സ്നേഹിതൻ മനസ്സിലാക്കുമെന്നു വിചാരിച്ചിരുന്നില്ല.

ഈ സംഗതി വോട്ടിനിടുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ഭൂരിപക്ഷം എനിക്കു കിട്ടുമോ എന്നുള്ള സംഗതി സംശയമാണു്. ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള വശങ്ങളിൽക്കൂടിതന്നെ ഗവണ്മെൻറു ഭാഗത്തുനിന്നും മറുപടി പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുമില്ല. വിദ്യുച്ഛക്തി എന്ന നിലയിൽ മാത്രമേ മറുപടി പറഞ്ഞിട്ടൊള്ളൂ. അതിനാൽ ഉൾനാട്ടിലെ ജനങ്ങളുടെ കാര്യം മനസ്സിലാക്കി എല്ലാമെമ്പർമാരും എൻെറ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തോടുകൂടി അനുകൂലിക്കുമെന്നു വിശ്വസിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു ഇതിനെ വോട്ടിനിടണമെന്നപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു.

PRESIDENT: The motion before the House is to omit the allotment of Rs. 1,50,000 for electric supply to the Quilon town.

The motion was put to the vote of the House and declared lost, one voting *for*.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): I demand a poll.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Sir, it is not a closed voting on the opposite side and as such the demanding of the poll is not necessary.

PRESIDENT: If a member demands a poll, it must be taken.

A poll was taken and the House divided as follows :—

AYES—1.

Mr. N. E. Varughese

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NOES—49.

1	Mr.	N. Abdur Rahiman Sahib	26	Mr.	T. Krishna Pillai
2	,,	T. K. Alexander	27		Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai
3	,,	V. T. Chacko	28	Mr.	K. Kunjukrishna Pillai
4	,,	C. V. Chandrasekharan	29	,,	C. V. Kunjuraman
5	,,	S. Chattanatha Karayalar	30	,,	E. K. Kunjuraman
6	,,	P. Chidambaram Pillai	31	,,	C. O. Madhavan
7	,,	A. Easwara Pillai (Kottarakara)	32	,,	K. Madhavan
8	,,	K. R. Elenkath	33	,,	M. K. Madhavan Pillai
9	,,	Antony George	34	,,	M. N. Nair
10	,,	K. George	35	,,	P. C. Narayana Bhattathiripad
11	,,	M. Mahomed Haneef	36	,,	B. Narayana Pillai
12	,,	S. J. Nair	37	,,	P. K. Narayana Pillai
13	,,	L. H. Jacob	38		Srimathi T. Narayani Amma
14	,,	M. K. Janardana Kamath	39	Mr.	G. Nilakantan
15	,,	T. S. Jayantan Namboothiri	40	,,	R. Nilakanta Pillai
16	,,	N. John Joseph	41	,,	N. K. Padmanabha Pillai
17	,,	J. M. Joseph	42	,,	Kayalam Parameswaran Pillai
18	,,	T. C. Joseph	43	,,	R. Raman Pillai
19	,,	K. C. Karunakaran	44	,,	T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar
20	,,	T. T. Kesavan Sastri	45	,,	R. Sambasiva Aiyar
21	,,	K. M. Krishnan	46	,,	K. Sankaran
22	,,	K. P. Krishna Menon	47	,,	A. Thanu Pillai
23	,,	E. V. Krishna Pillai	48	,,	T. C. Thommen
24	,,	N. K. Krishna Pillai	49	,,	T. K. Velu Pillai
25	,,	Puthupalli S. Krishna Pillai			

NEUTRALS—19.

1	Mr.	K. C. Abraham	11	Mr.	Kainikkara M. Padmanabha Pillai
2	,,	A. S. Damodaran Asan	12	,,	Changanachery K. Parameswaran Pillai
3	,,	A. Easwara Pillai (Kalkulam II)	13	,,	V. Ramakrishna Panickar
4	,,	Pottayil S. Krishna Panickar	14	,,	R. Sivasubrahmanya Nadar
5	,,	K. M. Kuriakose	15	,,	M. Sivatanu Pillai
6	,,	K. Mahomed	16	,,	P. K. Thomas
7	,,	Pacode A. Narayana Pillai	17	,,	John Whiteley Tolson
8	,,	S. Nilakanta Pillai	18	,,	V. K. Velappan Nair
9	,,	K. Padmanabhan	19	,,	T. P. Velayudhan Pillai
10	,,	Edavanatt S. Padmanabha Menon			

Motions Nos. 322 to 324.

The following motions were not moved :—

MR. K. PADMANABHAN :

322. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,75,978 for Pallivasal Hydro-Electric Scheme by Rs. 100

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MR. A. THANU PILLAI :

323. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,75,978 for Pallivasal Hydro-Electric Scheme by Re. 1.

MR. S. J. NAIR :

324. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 14,82,717 under Demand XI by Re. 1.

Motion No. 325.

MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR (*Kunnatnad II*) : Sir, I beg to move that the allotment of Rs. 14,82,717 under Demand XI be reduced by Re. 1.

When I tabled this motion, Sir, I had two objects in view, the first to find how the budget estimate for the Pallivasal Hydro-Electric Scheme has gone up from Rs. 36 lakhs to Rs. 70 lakhs and whether this scheme could be worked on a commercial basis, and secondly to discuss whether the Government had any regular policy in the matter of placing contracts for work and supply.

As regards the first point, after I tabled this motion, the Electrical Engineer has read to the House a very elaborate statement explaining how the budget estimate has gone up and also showing sufficient reasons that it could still be worked on a commercial basis. I do not therefore press that point.

It is only on the other point that I have to submit a few words. I should like to make it clear that as far as possible contracts for work and supply should be placed with Travancoreans. Besides the scheme being a very costly one, there is the other aspect of the question, that during these days of great economic depression Government are spending a fairly large amount out of the accumulated reserves ; and if these reserves are indirectly spent within the country itself the people would be benefited to a very large extent thereby. My point therefore is that the department should enunciate for itself a regular policy, a policy, by which as far as possible contracts for work and supply should be placed only with Travancoreans. There is also the fact that a foreign specialist in tunnelling work has been got. Since he is an expert in the line, it is possible for him to make Travancoreans, even though they are inexperienced, do tunnelling work. I found a tender notice the other day in the Government Gazette which makes it absolutely impossible for Travancoreans to compete for contracts in tunnelling work, because previous experience of tunnelling work was an essential requisite for giving tenders.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*) : Have we not one tunnel already in Travancore, I mean the Varkalai tunnel ?

MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR (*Kunnatnad*) : I do not know whether experience as in the Varkalai tunnel is the sort of thing that is required now. I am not an expert. I speak only generally. Since there is an expert who knows how to make other people work, it would be much better if the works are given to Travancoreans, and even though they are inexperienced in tunnelling, he could be present on the spot and he can make them work. Thus a very large amount of

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[Mr. R. Sambasiva Aiyar.]

money that will otherwise go to a foreign contractor could be obtained by the Travancoreans themselves. Of course I do not say that even if the work could be done only inefficiently under any circumstances by the Travancoreans, the work should not be given to foreigners capable of doing it efficiently. Consistent with efficiency, as far as possible, the Government should enunciate for themselves a policy by which the money spent towards the scheme could be spent in Travancore itself. That is all my submission.

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): Sir, as regards the placing of contracts, Government have already enunciated a policy and have definitely ordered the departments concerned to award contracts as far as possible only to Travancoreans. I say 'as far as possible' because in certain special works which may not be possible for local contractors to handle either due to want of technical knowledge or due to want of finance or due to want of the necessary tools and plants it may be necessary to engage outside agency. In the case of the Pallivasal Hydro-Electric project about twenty lakhs of rupees will be spent on works which the local contractors can handle. Even in the construction of the tunnel, although the contracts may be placed with a foreign contractor all excluding expert labourers will be recruited in Travancore. By 'expert labourers' I mean the people who are experienced in drilling and who are actually engaged in the dangerous operations connected with blasting and in the handling of explosives.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): Have we not here sufficient men who are experienced in handling explosives?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): I am afraid not. The explosives that are required for tunnel construction are of a totally different nature altogether.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): How is it that we are blasting all these rocks?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): That is a simple work comparatively. The explosives that are required for tunnel work are very dangerous and require special training in handling.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): Then, are the Travancoreans permitted only to remove all the debris and the rubble?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): There are other works connected with tunnelling, *e. g.*, the mechanical work shop, the compressor plant, the water supply and electric systems, incidental to the main work of actual driving and such works could be handled by local men. The actual drivers themselves may have to be got down from outside because previous experience is very essential. Otherwise, the work may be delayed and Government may find themselves incurring unnecessary loss.

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With regard to the Varkalai tunnel which was constructed years ago, I made enquiries with one of the old Engineers and I was told that it was done by Italian Engineers. At that time all the modern plant and machinery were not available and the local labourers that had occasion to handle them at that time are not alive now.

With regard to the contracts for materials and machinery of a special nature it may not be possible to get them done locally, but, wherever possible, for instance, towers for transmission lines etc., every consideration will be taken into account with a view to give employment to as large a number of local labour as possible.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

The question that a sum of Rs. 14,82,717 be granted under Demand XI—Public Works—Electrical Department—was then put and carried.

DEMAND XII—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Sir, I move for a grant of Rs. 10,49,355 under Demand XII—Administration of Justice.

Motion No. 326.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Sir, my motion is to the following effect:

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 37,170 for establishment by Rs. 10.

The object of my motion is to press on the attention of Government the necessity of taking prompt measures to combat law's delays. Sir, the question of law's delays has become a sort of perpetual complaint in Travancore. Probably it is not confined to Travancore, as is seen from its wide range and compass on account of its prevalence in British India and the British Isles also. In Great Britain, recently there has been agitation not only to expedite the administration of justice but also to cheapen it. Some measures have been adopted by the Courts of Justice in England by introducing what is known as 'the new procedure lists' for the trial of cases. In British India also, a committee was appointed some years ago to go into the question and certain measures were suggested and carried out. It is not necessary to refer to other places where similar agitation was afoot. In Travancore, there was considerable agitation and a Committee was appointed with a Commissioner as its head, who submitted a report as to the causes of law's delays and how to remove them. It is some time since the report was submitted to Government. The authorities, I thought, were contented with it, but as yet nothing seems to go forward. The Commissioner divided the causes of delay into two

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